No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/06/21 : LOC-HAK-4-7-16-2

[redacted]

25X1

SECRET

March 25, 1970

FOR: AMBASSADOR PORTER, SEOUL

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

Many thanks for your most useful suggestions and timely comments contained in Seoul 655. Warm regards.

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

SECRET

HAK:AMH:JTH:ms:3/25/70

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FM AMBASSADOR PORTER SEOUL 655
TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. HENRY KISSINGER

USEFUL MOMENT MAY BE APPROACHING FOR THIEU TO CONSIDER GESTURE OR MESSAGE TO CAMBODIANS ON TROUBLESOME ISSUE OF FRONTIER AND MAYBE ISLANDS. HE HAS ADVANTAGE OF ANNAMITE IN THAT THERE IS IN HIM LESS DETESTATION (I JUDGE FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM) OF CAMBODIANS THAN IS FOUND IN VIETNAMESE OF SOUTH THOUGH HE MUST OF COURSE TAKE SOUTHERN POLITICAL VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT. THAIS COULD ALSO MAKE CONTRIBUTION BUT NEITHER THEY NOR VIETNAMESE ARE VERY RATIONAL WHEN CAMBODIANS ARE SUBJECT.

SIHANOUK APPARENTLY DELAYED DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW AS RESULT OF INFO FROM PHNOM PENH AND DIFFICULTY OF JUDGING SERIOUSNESS OF EVENTS AND OF COURSE CHICOM ATTITUDE. CAREFUL HANDLING AND ABOVE ALL DISCRETION IN DISPLAYING AMERICAN ATTITUDES MAY YIELD USEFUL RESULTS.

SIHANOUK MUST NOW BID HIGH IN MOSCOW BUT HIS DILEMMA IS THAT MORE DEPENDS INITIALLY ON NVN/VC STRENGTH IN OR NEAR CAMBODIA AND HOW SOON IF AT ALL CHINESE BACK-UP WOULD BE AVAILABLE. SOVIET RESOURCES, WHILE IMPORTANT, ARE NUMBER THREE IN THAT LINE. IF SIHANOUK GETS BACK IN, PRICE HE WILL HAVE TO PAY WILL GRAVELY AFFECT VN, THAILAND AND LAOS. AT THIS POINT, I MUST SAY THAT MY PROFESSIONAL INSTINCTS IMPEL ME TO URGE YOU TO READY A PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL FIGURE IN CASE YOU NEED ONE TO VISIT IN THAT REGION. CAMBODIA IS KEYSTONE AND WE HAVE BEEN HAMPERED CONSIDERABLY BY THAI/RVN HOSTILITY TOWARD THAT COUNTRY.

VLADIVOSTOK RELAY OF RADIO MOSCOW SOUNDED TONIGHT LIKE SOMETHING ADRIFT ON LAKE BAIKAL. THEY PROVIDED NO QUOTES FROM SIHANOUK BUT GAVE USUAL LINE U.S. ESCALATING IN SEA, EVENTS TAKING TURN FOR WORSE, AND CAMB/SOV IN FULL AGREEMENT HOW RESTORE SEA PEACE. ALSO, ASSURED CAMBODIANS THEY CAN CONTINUE TO RELY ON SOVIET SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE OF THEIR NEUTRALITY. SIHANOUK PROBABLY FEELS NEED FOR MORE THAN THAT RIGHT NOW. WE HAS NO PUBLIC COMMENT FROM CHICOMS TO THINK ABOUT. THEY SAY NOTHING.
SAG

SECRET

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